

PCT/AU2004/001839
Received 15 March 2006

17

CLAIMS:

1. A specimen container comprising:
 - a body having an opening for placement of a specimen;
 - a lid to cover the opening of the body;
 - 5 and
 - a substantially continuous indicator band extending entirely around the body; the band being brightly coloured to be visible from a distance, the indicator band is located on the body adjacent an opening of the body and is viewable when the lid is placed over the opening, wherein
 - 10 the indicator band is incorporated on a body of the specimen container prior to a sample being located within a body of the specimen container
2. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the indicator band is between 1 mm and 20 mm wide.
3. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the indicator band is
- 15 between 2 mm and 10 mm wide.
4. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the indicator band is between 2.5 mm and 5 mm wide.
5. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the colour of the indicator band has a brightness of greater than 40%.
- 20 6. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the colour of the indicator band has a brightness of greater than 60%.
7. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the colour of the indicator band has a brightness of greater than 80%.
8. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the colour of the indicator
- 25 band has a saturation of greater than 40%.
9. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the colour of the indicator band has a saturation of greater than 60%.
10. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the colour of the indicator band has a saturation of greater than 80%.
- 30 11. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the lid includes an additional indicator.
12. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the indicator band is a

PCT/AU2004/001839
Received 15 March 2006

18

label that is applied to the body.

13. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the indicator band is integrally formed with the body.

5 14. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the indicator band is printed on the body.

15. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the indicator band includes a human readable element.

16. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the indicator band includes a machine readable element.

10 17. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein further including a details section to allow for the recordal of the details of a patient on the specimen container.

15 18. The specimen container of claim 17 wherein the details section includes a location for one or more of a surname, first name, date of birth, time, signature, ward, patient number, sample type, fill line, anticoagulant type, preservative type, batch number, expiry details, date of manufacture of the specimen container, a biohazard symbol, a radiation marker symbol.

19. The specimen container of claim 17 wherein the details section includes a human readable and/or machine readable element.

20 20. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein the indicator band is fluorescent.

21. The specimen container of claim 1 wherein a removable tag forms part of the indicator band.

25 22. The specimen container of claim 21 wherein the removable tag is an adhesive removable tag.

23. The specimen container of claim 17 wherein a removable tag forms part of the indicator band and/or details section.

24. The specimen container of claim 23 wherein the removable tag is an adhesive removable tag.

30 25. The specimen container of claim 17 wherein the indicator band is fluorescent.

26. A method of colour coding a specimen container, the method

comprising the steps of:

incorporating a coloured indicator band extending entirely around a body of a specimen container adjacent an opening of the body so that when a lid is placed over the opening, the indicator band is viewable,

5 wherein the indicator band is incorporated on a body of the specimen container prior to a sample being located within a body of the specimen container.

27. The method of claim 26 further including the step of the indicator band being incorporated around the body of the specimen container during
10 production of the specimen container.

28. The method of claim 26 further including the step of adhering the indicator band to the specimen container.

29. The method of claim 26 further including the step of integrally forming the indicator band within the specimen container.

15 30. The method of claim 26 further including the step of printing the indicator band on the specimen container.